

National Response Team Member Meeting: Deepwater Horizon/Gulf of Mexico Incident-Specific Call Action Items and Decisions Reached

Date: May 21, 2010 **Time:** 11:00 AM (EDT)

Location: Conference Call only (1-800-320-4330)

Prior attendees and likely continuing participants

Notes: Confirmed meeting participants are listed below in **bold text**. Roll call is limited to National

Response Team (NRT) Member Agency Representatives only.

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Note: If in attendance, the responsible party (RP) is asked to leave the room by ADM Landry or her representative during sensitive discussions.

Note: Action items are indicated in **bold italicized text**.

INTRODUCTION

- US Coast Guard (USCG) CAPT Anthony Lloyd opened the conference call and welcomed participants.
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Deputy Secretary Jane Lute confirmed that the national-level incident priorities remain unchanged.

SITUATION BRIEF

Operational Update

The operational update was provided by Deputy National Incident Commander (NIC) RADM Peter Neffenger.

SubSurface Response Status

• The riser insertion tube tool is working consistent with its design. Variations exist in the rate of barrels of oil collected per day. The 5,000-barrel per day estimate reported previously was an ephemeral measurement. The actual total amount of oil recovered on May 20, 2010 was approximately 2,200 barrels and that number can vary. Natural gas is also being brought to the surface and burned off.

- The dynamic well kill operation is targeted for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 and will be a two to three day process. Support vessels for this operation are being loaded with heavy mud and other materials and are enroute to the site.
 - o USCG and national lab engineers are embedded with BP engineers and will begin reporting status information when the operation commences.
- Relief wells: Development Driller 3 resumed drilling after placing a blowout preventer (BOP) on the relief well. Development Driller 2 has drilled to a depth of 250 feet below the sea floor.

On Water Recovery Status

- On May 20, 2010, six in-situ burns (ISB) were completed over six hours.
- On May 20, 2010, approximately 13,600 gallons of oily water mix were recovered. On May 21, 2010, skimming operations will continue.
- On May 20, 2010, a low ceiling prevented the aerial application of dispersants. *Flow Rate Status*
- Deputy Secretary Lute noted a need to resolve the variations in flow rate estimates.
- This work is being done by the NIC Flow-Rate Technical Team. On May 20, 2010, RADM Neffenger met with the Flow-Rate Technical Team, Department of the Interior (DOI), and US Geologic Survey (USGS) to compile the various data sources, methods, and formulas for estimating flow rate.
- The Flow-Rate Technical Team's workplan is to model the undersea plume, model and determine actual flow rate from leaks, determine reservoir capacity and potential discharge rate, and calculate total volume of oil released and oil removed (burned, skimmed, etc) to date.
 - RADM Neffenger will forward the workplan to Deputy Secretary Lute for distribution at the Deputies meeting.
- The NIC is finishing a document, intended for public distribution, explaining past and present methods used to calculate the flow rate. The document is expected to be released for vetting by the Federal agencies the week of May 24, 2010.

Communications Update

- The DHS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) is monitoring the news coverage of the federal government's letters recently sent to BP on making data and response efforts more transparent.
- OPA is developing a fact sheet about the NIC Flow-Rate Technical Team.

Legal Affairs Update

• The DHS Office of General Counsel (OGC) continues to move forward with the joint Minerals Management Service (MMS) and USCG investigation. Starting on May 26, 2010, Congressional Hearings will begin to include Transocean, BP, and other industry representatives to discuss the technical aspects of the BOP that can be ascertained at this time.

Intergovernmental Affairs Update

- The DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) continues to host daily calls with the Governors and complete action items as required.
- IGA is coordinating with OGC, OPA, and the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA).

Congressional Affairs

• OLA continues to host a daily conference call with members of Congress. OLA observed that the calls are longer in duration and are addressing many questions concerning the underwater video footage and the flow rate.

Additional Note

• The Department of Justice (DOJ) reported that on May 20, 2010, an internal DOJ meeting was held with US Attorneys from the Gulf States to discuss and ensure appropriate coordination among the various DOJ entities.

NEXT CALL

• NRT Members meeting: May 22, 2010, 11:00 AM (EDT)